(b) if so, the details of prescribed budget and time-limit set by Government in this regard;

(c) whether Government has selected only rural areas to open these new ITIs; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and the details of these areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) As per announcement made by the Prime Minister, 1500 new Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) are being set up in Public Private Partnership (PPP).

(b) Since ITIs would be set up under PPP mode, cost would vary from location to location and trades to be selected by the Private Partner. The indicative cost of setting up one ITI with a seating capacity of about 200 trainees in a single shift is approximately rupees six crore. Establishment of such institutes Involves three partners (i) Private Training Provider playing the lead role (ii) State Government providing free of cost land and basic infrastructure support and (iii) Central Government providing Viability Gap Funding (VGF), which may be upto a maximum of 40% of the estimated project cost. It is expected to roll out the scheme towards the middle of next year.

(c) and (d) These ITIs are proposed to be set up, preferably in unserviced blocks (blocks where no ITIs/ITCs exist) so that persons from those areas could also access the skill development infrastructure. State Governments have been requested to identify appropriate locations where free of cost land with basic infrastructure such as power, water, road, etc. is available.

Violation in Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act

1478. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR : Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are 17 million Child labourers in the country as per the survey conducted by the Child Rights and You (CRY);

(b) whether it is also a fact that despite registering around 2,277 violations in 2008-09 of Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act not a single & conviction has been achieved so far;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Labour Department officials are unable to check Child Labour or the law itself is having many loopholes and it is not enforced properly; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) Census conducted by the Registrar General of India is the only authentic source of information on the number of working children. As per census 2001, the number of working children in the country is 1.26 crore.

(b) and (c) As per records available with the Government around 27166 violations have been detected in 2007-08 and 7636 prosecution cases have been launched and 751 convictions have been obtained. Convictions/acquittals are a result of prosecutions launched in the Court of Law.

(d) and (e) No, Sir. The provisions of the Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act are being enforced and implemented through out the country by the respective Governments properly.

Losses of jobs in the unorganized sector

1479. SHRIMATI T. RATNA BAI: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has done anything for the unorganized sector that has witnessed considerable job losses; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken for the growth of jobs in the unorganized sector, category-wise and State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) and (b) Recognizing the serious problem of unemployment, the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005 was enacted. The Act provides for the enhancement of livelihood security of the households in rural areas of the country by providing at least 100 days of guaranteed wage employment in every financial year to every household. A significant feature of this Act is that if a worker who has applied for work under NREGA is not provided employment within 15 days from the date on which work is requested, an unemployment allowance is payable by the State Government at the rate prescribed in the Act. In addition to this, Government is implementing a number of employment generation schemes, such as Swarnjayanti Gram Swarojgar Yojana (SGSY), Swarn Jayanti Shahari Rojgar Yojana (SJSRY) and Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP). The PMEGP has been launched in August, 2008 for implementation from 2008-09 to 2012-13 with an estimated expenditure of Rs.4735 crore towards margin money and Rs. 250 crore towards backward forward linkages with the target for generation of 37.37 lakh additional employment opportunities.

Construction workers in metropolis cities

1480. DR. (SHRIMATI) NAJMA A. HEPTULLA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that there are lakhs of workers engaged in construction work throughout India;

(b) if so, the estimated number of construction workers in the metropolis cities;